



CHANGING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY OF TEACHERS IN 21st CENTURY

Karma Sherpa¹ | Anindita Bachhar²

¹ Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Education, Vinaya Bhavana, Visvabharati, Santiniketan, India.

² M.Phil Research Scholar, WBUTTEPA, India.

ABSTRACT

The teaching profession occupies one of the prestigious and dignified profession in the society. Teachers are expected to fulfil the present needs and demands of the learners, parents and society as a whole. The teachers play a crucial role in developing and refining the personality of the students. The teacher in the modern sense is regarded as friend, philosopher and guide. Hence, with all these expectations comes more responsibilities on their shoulders. In the traditional system of education, roles and responsibilities of the teachers were limited and constrained because of the goals and requirements of the society. Teachers in the traditional education stressed more on the delivery of the content, subject – knowledge and intellectual aspect. The lecture method was used in the teaching learning process and it gave little importance to the learner. But with the flow of time and reforms in the education system, the aims and objectives were changed and it brought new roles and responsibilities to teachers. The modern education aims to accomplish the needs and demands of the learners, parents, society and nation as a whole. The major responsibilities of the teachers in the present era are diverse. Teachers act as a facilitator, guide, supervisor, mentor, friend, philosopher, motivator, etc. Henceforth, to execute all these qualities they require more preparation and training. The pedagogic knowledge, skills, methodology of teaching specific subjects, child psychology, use of ICT and many more skills and knowledge are essential to efficiently teach the students for meaningful learning. Therefore, this paper specifically focuses on the dynamics of teacher and its changing roles and responsibilities to meet the expectations of the learner.

KEYWORDS: Dignified, Crucial, Philosopher, Traditional Education, Modern Education, Pedagogy, Facilitator, ICT.

Teaching is a systematic and organized activity. Teaching in its truest sense should be meaningful for both the learners as well as teachers. If teacher does not take the roles and responsibilities seriously then it can hamper the overall performance of students in all domains of development, like – Cognitive, Affective and Psycho-motor. The teacher in the teaching learning process plays a prime role in modifying the behaviour of the students and bringing about desirable changes in all spheres of development. In the past, the role of the teachers were very limited and less emphasis was given to innovative teaching and there were lack of teacher education colleges, which refines the behaviour, skills and techniques of teachers. Furthermore, teachers in the past required only content knowledge and qualification. It was believed that teachers were born. Individual having good qualifications and content knowledge were apt for the teaching profession. The major goal of the curriculum was to provide content knowledge. So the teachers role was only to deliver the content through lecture method and students were supposed to cram the content knowledge in order to prepare for examination. Less importance was given to the interest, needs and demands of the learners. So, the curriculum of the past education system was rigid and was more content- centric and subject- centred.

Nothing in this world is fixed and rigid, everything keeps on changing. Change is permanent; change is the unchangeable law of nature. So education is also dynamic in nature and keeps on changing with the present needs, requirements and demands of the society and nation. The current education specifically focuses on the total personality or all round development of the students. The curriculum of modern day education is dynamic and flexible in nature in comparison to the education from yester years. Today's education system demands teachers who are professionally trained and skilled in their specific subjects. The modern education is more learner – centric and learner is in the center of all the activity process inside and outside the classroom. The modern teachers should hold good qualifications, knowledge of pedagogy, different methodologies, use of teaching aids, knowledge of ICT, knowledge of child psychology, etc. Teachers in the modern education should acquire the following qualities:

- Acts as a facilitator and engage more students participation of students in all activity. The more you engage the students the more they learn. The role of the teacher is to guide and assist them in their activity.
- Inspires students and becomes a role model for them. The students in general observes the behaviour of their teachers. So teachers should have those good qualities that students can replicate.
- Teacher is a friend, philosopher and guide. He should win trust of the students and create a good rapport with them. These facilitates meaningful learning because the students feel good to share their problems and experiences.
- A good teacher is always fair-minded and free from prejudice. He should treat all the students equal and should not be biased.

- Teachers ought to be passionate for teaching. If a teacher lacks this attribute the teaching becomes futile and spoils the atmosphere of the classroom.
- The expertise of classroom management is very essential. The teacher must make certain checking the readiness of the learner and manage the classroom properly before teaching.
- Encourages students to become self- learners. By developing this quality within the students, the students becomes self responsible and self reliant.
- Teacher should constantly support the students. By doing so, he can diagnose the problems of students.
- Gives plenty of relevant examples for meaningful teaching. These examples makes the lesson more lucid for the learners to understand.
- A good and effective teacher is always flexible. They are dynamic and always ready to accept new challenges for positive changes.
- Recognizes the individual differences of the students and gives attention to their individual needs and demands. They give emphasis on identifying their inner potentialities and developing their talents.
- A good teacher takes prides in their students accomplishments. He will always motivate the students to do better things.

For the effective and fruitful teaching, the teacher should teach the lessons according to the age and ability range of the students. The teacher must take into account the intelligence level of the students for better teaching learning.

SIGNIFICANT PRINCIPLES OF TEACHING FOR CONTEMPORARY TEACHERS:

A teacher plays a pivotal role in modifying the behaviour of the learners and prepare them for future challenges. T.P. Nunn, rightly says – “Education is the complete development of the individuality of the child.” So to bring total development of the child, the teachers role becomes significant. For the successful and meaningful teaching, it is very much essential to know the behaviours of the learners and most importantly how they learn and by which method they can learn effectively. Therefore, the teachers should follow certain principles for successful teaching. Some of the major principles of teaching which are very significant for the teachers are as follows:

- **Principles of planning:** Planning is the most crucial stage in educational process, with. Without apposite planning nothing can be achieved as we have desired and aspired. To fulfil the aims and objectives of education, planning becomes crucial. The teacher should prepare a lesson plan carefully before teaching. Things that are important in planning the lesson plan are – selection of teaching material and its instructional objectives, segregating the subject

matter into different units, so that it becomes easy for the learners to understand. Questions related with the day's lesson must be asked to evaluate the students, Home works and assignments, etc.

- **Principle of definite aims and objectives:** The teacher should be aware of the aims and objectives of lesson before teaching. Teaching is not a haphazard process, rather it is a systematic process. Before entering the classroom the teacher should prepare the instructional objectives and should know what definite aims to be fulfilled. Without aims and objectives teaching would become like a vehicle without steering. Teaching becomes purposeless in the absence of aims and objectives.
- **Principle of action/activity "learning by doing":** Learning by doing is proven to be the most effective method of teaching. Learning by doing here means to engage the students in teaching learning process. The teacher must ensure that the students partake in all the curricular and co-curricular activities. When the students actively participate in classroom discussions and take various tasks properly, it will remove all the dullness of the lesson and motivates them to learn do the project on their own. The child will learn through his/her own experiences, and that knowledge becomes a part of life which they learn through self activity. The teacher's part is to make available maximum opportunities for the learner for self- activity.
- **Principle of flexibility and elasticity:** The teacher must know the learners and identify their level of intelligence and grasping power. The same teaching method should not be followed repeatedly, it will create a monotonous environment and student might get bored in the class. Therefore the teacher in his class should follow innovative techniques and methods to make the classroom lively and interesting. Teaching should not be static and rigid. The duty of the teacher is to reinforce and motivate the students for meaningful learning.
- **Principle of individual differences:** Every individual and child is different from each other as they differ in terms of their needs, interests, abilities and aspirations. Every type of students are found in the class like slow learners, maladjusted students, genius, etc. Therefore, it becomes very imperative for the teacher to understand their students and teach accordingly.
- **Principle of readiness:** The teacher must ensure the readiness of the learners before teaching. It is the role of the teacher to make students attentive if the students are not ready for learning. The teacher cannot compel the students to pay attention to him, in fact he can use different strategies to motivate them towards learning.
- **Principle of democracy:** The teacher should follow the democratic principles of teaching. They must create a conducive environment for learning. Good rapport between the students and teacher will lead towards successful teaching. They should be a leader to lead the students. One should not act like a dictator in the classroom. They should not be biased and treat all the students equally irrespective of caste, creed, religion and gender. There should be no discrimination and the teacher should teach them with love and affection.
- **Principle of feedback and reinforcement:** The feedback and reinforcement acts like a stimulus for students. It will create more motivation in them to learn. The teacher can positively reinforce them in the form of – praise, grade, certificates and other incentives.
- **Principle of diagnostic and remedial teaching:** A good teacher supports his students. The various problems and questions can be answered with the help of diagnostic and remedial teaching. In remedial teaching the students will get opportunity to seek answers to their problems and difficulties.

CHANGING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MODERN TEACHERS:

The role of the traditional teachers were just to impart the knowledge and skill to students. But due to the passage of time, globalization and technology, education has transformed to a large extent. Now information can be obtained from everywhere, any time, on anything. Therefore, the role of teachers has changed to facilitate the students in developing the skills and tools in critically analysing the abundance of information available through different sources. Modern education and teaching focuses in deeper, student centered approaches to learning that analyse, develop, create and demonstrate understanding. It does not merely give emphasis to transference of knowledge and skill or application around a particular topic. Therefore, following are some of the major changing roles and responsibilities of the teachers to meet the present needs and demands of the learners:

- **Professional knowledge and Skill:** The teacher should have abundant knowledge of their subjects/ curriculum areas. He should be competent enough to teach lessons and sequences of lessons according to the age level and ability of the learners. He should be resourceful enough to use various teaching aids. He must also possess the knowledge and skills of different methods of teaching. Professional practice of the teachers includes – quality evaluation, feedback, motivation, planning instructional objectives, prepar-

ing lesson plans, different approaches to teaching, etc.

- **Professional values and ethics:** The teacher should remain dedicated towards his profession. Commitment towards learner and institution comes under the professional values. The teacher must inculcate good values within his students. And he must have a healthy relationship with his colleagues and work as team member.
- **Good Communicator and Manager:** The teacher should develop a cordial relationship with all stakeholders of the education system: The teacher should maintain a very cordial relationship with all the stakeholders of the education system like- management, parents, society and community. The teachers must observe and keep all the records of the students. For instance, academic performance, attendance records, co-curricular activities records, behavioural problems records. By keeping systematic arrangements of the records, proper guidance and counselling can be provided to the students. The teacher should be able to conduct an action research in the school to solve the issues and problems of students.
- **Teachers Competence:** The teacher should be able to face all the challenges and problems of 21st century education. Teaching in the modern era is not that easy, it is a complex profession and to make it smooth the teacher should always strive to update her knowledge through self- study, reflections, discussion with colleagues and participate in orientation and training programmes.
- **The attitude of Teachers:** The teachers should showcase humble attitude towards their students. They must always encourage students and motivating them to carry positive attitude: The teachers should develop a very positive attitude towards teaching profession and students. Traditionally, there were cases of corporal punishments, which ruined the life of many students. The teacher should not use corporal punishments. The teacher should show compassion and love towards students.
- **Blend of Art and Science:** The prime goal of education is the success of the students. The role of the teacher is to implement the knowledge of pedagogy like- management skills, organization of knowledge, precise planning in the real sense. In addition, the teacher should be a good communicator who can interact effectively with students, parents, etc. The teachers should maintain cordial, friendly and favourable relationships with all the stakeholders for the sake of the successful life of the future generation. The teacher should integrate the knowledge of pedagogy with art to foster the development of students.
- **Focus on refining the skills of teaching:** In the modern education system, the training and skills of teaching is must. The teaching profession now requires training programme certificates with academic qualification. The teachers who had undergone training of teaching are given top priorities in institutions. In the present context, the teacher training colleges are established to offer proper training for both the Pre- service and In service teachers.

CONCLUSION:

In this era of globalization, the teachers of the 21st century should be always open minded and stay prepared for positive and new changes, which basically accounts for the welfare of mankind. The roles and responsibilities of the teachers have become very challenging and dynamic. Nevertheless, the contemporary teachers mostly focuses on helping the society meet the various issues and challenges of future. Their role is not just confined to transact information within the four walls of the classroom but to create an aura for a harmonious and sustainable future for humanity.

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